

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 2, replace the first full paragraph with the following:

Q1 -- This application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/853,556, "Control Channel for an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by Laurence J. Newell and David A. Pechner, filed on even date herewith; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/854,246, "Synchronizing Nodes in an Optical Communications System Utilizing Frequency Division Multiplexing," by Laurence J. Newell, filed on even date herewith. --